

**Climate Change Non-Departmental Account**  
**Monthly Reporting**

In May 2020, County Council approved reporting language in its Operating Budget miscellaneous provisions of Resolution 19-472 with regards to the Climate Change NDA:

*This resolution appropriates \$400,000 to the Climate Change Planning Non-Departmental Account (NDA). Funds in this NDA must be used for the prioritization of greenhouse gas reduction strategies, developing an implementation plan to meet the County's goal of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2027 and a 100 percent reduction by 2035, and to develop climate change adaptation strategies. Only after the previously described work is completed may funds be used for other climate change-related initiatives. The Executive must transmit within 15 days after the end of a month a report on the previous month's expenditures from this account.*

In accordance with the resolution, the Executive hereby transmits the monthly report for December 2020.

**FY21 Climate Change NDA expenditures reporting:**

(includes expenditures incurred through 12/31/20):

<b>Expenditure Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Resilience Ambassador pilot and listening sessions (resilience surveys to inform the climate plan and operating expenses)	\$5,588.26
Climate planning outreach and communications	\$600.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,188.26</b>

**December 2020 highlights:**

- **Climate Planning update:** The Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP), funded with FY20 Climate Change NDA funds, was publicly released in December. The CAP is Montgomery County's strategic plan to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035. The CAP details the effects of a changing climate on Montgomery County and includes strategies to reduce GHG emissions and climate-related risks to the County's residents, businesses, and the built and natural environment.

The Draft CAP is open for public comment through February 28, 2021. The Draft CAP is available on the climate webpage, <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/climate>. The County's climate team is participating in numerous virtual community sessions about the Draft CAP; upcoming sessions are listed on the climate webpage. The CAP will be finalized in the spring of 2021.



- Oaks Landfill solar project announced: The County has established an innovative partnership that will provide reliable clean energy for low-to-moderate income households and County Government. Ameresco, an energy efficiency and renewable energy company, will build three solar arrays on approximately 16 acres of underutilized County-owned land at the former Oaks Landfill located at 6010 Riggs Road, Gaithersburg. The County strongly believes in locating projects on brownfields to best utilize the County's land resources.

The project will be 6 megawatts (MW) total, divided into three 2 MW arrays, and will generate 11.4 million kilowatt hours annually. Array 1 is for use by the County and under a power purchase agreement, providing the County government clean, renewable energy at no upfront cost. Arrays 2 and 3, each with 2 MW, will be a community solar project with 100% of the generated electricity provided to low-to-moderate income subscribers. Ameresco will finance, design, construct, own and operate all of the facilities.

As with all its projects, the County seeks to promote innovation and community stewardship. Community benefits of the project go beyond providing clean energy; construction of the solar arrays prioritizes County job creation. Ameresco is committed to working to subcontract a portion of the work to local small and minority, female and disabled-owned business firms. During pre-construction, Ameresco will seek and encourage local business and workforce participation in the project, emphasizing the high quality, career-ladder jobs that the project will create in the community.

Additionally, a partnership with local vocational and educational institutions will be created to provide opportunities for aspiring professionals during design and construction. The County's youngest residents will also have a unique opportunity to

learn from the project, as Ameresco designed and built a solar power wagon as a hands-on learning tool appropriate for K-12 students.

This project will add to the County's numerous other solar photovoltaic initiatives, including microgrids at the County's Public Safety Headquarters in Gaithersburg and the Correctional Facility in Clarksburg, which are on-site clean power generation systems. Both facilities can operate independently from the power grid to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a catastrophic storm or major power outage.

- **We Are All In Declaration:** Montgomery County has joined counties and cities across Maryland and the United States to mark the five-year anniversary of the world coming together to sign on to the Paris Climate Agreement. To celebrate the anniversary that occurred on Dec. 12, local governments are committing to a national mobilization by signing the "America Is All In" declaration for a clean energy economy and centering their own operations in pursuit of climate action.

Montgomery County joined a number of Maryland jurisdictions that have signed the declaration, including Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Prince George's counties and the cities of Annapolis, Baltimore, College Park, Rockville, Salisbury and Takoma Park. The Maryland jurisdictions have joined more than a thousand national leaders from local governments, businesses, universities and other institutions in the America Is All In declaration. The declaration will be delivered to the incoming Biden-Harris Administration.

The America Is All In declaration is organized by We Are Still In, a coalition supporting climate action and a pledge to uphold the United States' commitments to reduce emissions under the Paris Agreement. With more than 3,900 organizations and institutions across all sectors of the United States, the leaders represent more than half of the national population, nearly two-thirds of the economy and more than half of the country's emissions.

While the United States officially exited the Paris Agreement on Nov. 4, the incoming Biden-Harris administration has committed to reentering the unprecedented global agreement. View the statement and signatories at [AmericaIsAllIn.com](http://AmericaIsAllIn.com) at [WeAreStillIn.com](http://WeAreStillIn.com)

**For more information:**

A description of the FY21 Climate Change NDA budget allocation is available at: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/Resources/Files/climate/fy21-climate-nda-budget.pdf>

The complete list of the County's FY21 climate initiatives is available at:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/Resources/Files/climate/fy21-montgomery-county-climate-work-plan.pdf>